

COMMENTARY

Long Island Jewish Hospital or the University of North Dakota. In the initial stages exchange fellowships could play a major part, with benefit both to Europe and to America.

Most American physicians are not consciously anti-old, any more than many old-time liberals were consciously anti-black. To get geriatrics off the ground we have to attack the cultural assumptions of humane and professional people; this can be done by instruction, but it is far more cogently done by demonstration. The return to vigor of a few "senile" patients under proper management is a spectacle that the average physician, if he has never seen it, will find profoundly consciousness-raising at a professional level. Geriatrics in Europe has thrived in part because stu-

dents, knowing that they will not need to waste time functioning as entrepreneurs and tradesmen, can devote their energy to functioning as physicians, and it is to physicians and their self-esteem and expertise that geriatrics presents such a rewarding challenge. It is one that should be in line with the change in the social estimate of medicine and the spirit of self-questioning that I meet among young Americans now in medical school.

REFERENCES

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3. Brocklehurst JC: *Textbook of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology*. Edinburgh and London, Churchill, Livingstone, 1973

Growth of the Eye

THE GLOBE of the eye is approximately fully grown at age three. The eye grows from 16 mm to approximately 23 mm during the first three years. It grows a tenth of 1 percent for the next ten years, so a 3-year-old child has approximately a fully mature eye.

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Extracted from *Audio-Digest Ophthalmology*, Vol. 15, No. 14, in the Audio-Digest Foundation's subscription series of tape-recorded programs. For subscription information: 1577 East Chevy Chase Drive, Glendale, Ca 91206.